

The CIMS Camera Oversight Committee presented an update and their [final report](#) to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. In addition to the report, an [updated log](#) on the 96 requests to retain footage was provided to the Board.

[Click here](#) to see a map of locations of the eleven CIMS Cameras.

Please click below to see the meeting minutes from the previous meetings:

[1/26/2010](#)

[1/12/2010](#)

[12/2/2009](#)

[11/2/2009](#)

[6/23/2009](#)

[5/19/2009](#)

**Critical Infrastructure Monitoring System (CIMS) Program**

Since early 2009, the Brookline Police Department has operated and maintained a fixed video camera monitoring system within the jurisdiction of the Town of Brookline to monitor major thoroughfares and evacuation routes that are deemed critical infrastructure as part of the Critical Infrastructure Monitoring System (CIMS) of the Metro-Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR). The CIMS program is comprised of similar systems operated and maintained by the nine (9) municipalities within the MBHSR (in addition to Brookline, these are Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop).

The purpose of the CIMS program is to enhance the management of emergency situations, detect and deter terrorism, and otherwise protect the health, safety and welfare of those who live and work in, visit, and transact business with the Town.

The CIMS program may also be used to deter criminal activity and public disorder, reduce fear of crime, identify criminal activity and suspects, identify and gather possible evidence for use in criminal and civil court actions, document police actions, safeguard citizen and police officer rights, aid in Amber alerts or in the search for lost / missing children or elderly people, assist emergency services personnel when responding to incidents, assist with the monitoring of traffic conditions, otherwise assist town officials with the provision of municipal services in order to enhance overall municipal efficiency, and assist with the training of Department personnel. The Brookline CIMS shall not be used to replace current policing techniques. Instead, it is to be used to supplement proven policing techniques and assist in the delivery of public safety and municipal services.

The CIMS program began in early 2009, operating on a 24 hour a day/7 day a week basis. Following a lengthy period of public review and comment, Chief Daniel O'Leary proposed a more restricted use of the cameras, with the system operating on a daily basis from 10pm to 6am, while retaining the Department's discretion to use these cameras for preplanned events, criminal investigations and the other reasons listed in the previous paragraph.

This revised plan also turned over one of the 12 cameras to Boston, the jurisdiction where the camera resides (Cleveland Circle).

This decision was based on a two-fold review of the CIMS program – 1) a compromised position to satisfy some residents' concerns of a "police state" where they live under 24/7 governmental surveillance and 2) an analysis of the instances where the footage proved to be most helpful to the Department and the Town in achieving our mission to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for our residents by providing assistance in investigating a crime, conducting traffic analysis, managing events, etc.

The following report includes the analysis which was used in devising this compromised plan and is a review of all CIMS camera footage that has been retained since the programs inception. To date, there have been 56 requests to retain footage. 48 of these have been by police officers, 4 by the Department for preplanned, managed events and 4 were Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA).

Please

[click here](#)

to view this report.

## CIMS Camera Oversight Committee

Steve Zabak, Chair

Jack Corrigan

Susan Howard

Mary Sullivan